

# RIGHT WHALE NEWS

The Newsletter of the Southeastern United States Implementation Team for the Recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale and the Northeast Implementation Team

Volume 8 Number 1

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## **Congress Again Provides Record Funding for Right Whales New Allocations Significantly Change Research Picture**

After a great deal of wrangling between Congress and President Clinton, the Fiscal Year 2001 budget for the U.S. Department of Commerce was finally approved. Included in the budget is \$55,338,000 for endangered species recovery plans, of which \$5 million is for right whales. The vast majority of the funds (\$36,450,000) are in support of the Pacific salmon recovery initiative. Funding is also included for other marine mammals (\$3.5 million), Atlantic salmon recovery (\$2 million), sea turtles (\$3.338 million), technical support to the state of Washington (\$1.5 million), Alaskan Steller sea lion recovery (\$850,000) and \$2,700,000 for other species.

The \$5 million appropriated for right whales tops last year's record appropriation of \$4.1 million. However, the allocations for the funds are significantly different, and NOAA Fisheries (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries - the new name for the National Marine Fisheries Service) only gets \$2.1 million. The remaining \$2.9 million goes to the Northeast Consortium (see next article).

The funds for NOAA Fisheries are to help the agency meet its responsibilities for the implementation of programs, research, and enforcement activities for the recovery of the right whale, including the use of aerial surveys. Tagging is also identified as a priority. Responding to last year's controversy over the NOAA Fisheries' use of right whale funding to pay for positions (see *Right Whale News* 7 (2): 6; May 2000), Congress also directed that no more than 30 percent of the funds be used for salaries.

The Congressional Committees on Appropriations also directed NOAA Fisheries to provide them with a spending plan for fiscal year 2001 by no later than January 30, 2001. At press time, this plan had not been cleared for release by the Bush Administration. The agency plans to continue support for the sighting advisory system (operational off Massachusetts) and the early warning system (Georgia and Florida) although with less money. Other big ticket items include funding for the mandatory ship reporting system, air surveys in the Gulf of Maine for population assessments, acoustics research, risk assessments, maintenance of right whale photo ID and other databases by the New England Aquarium and the University of Rhode Island, additional GIS work in the southeast and the work of the Northeast Implementation Team and the Southeastern U.S. Implementation Team for the Recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale.

## **Northeast Consortium Gets \$2.9 Million for Right Whales New Group Requests Proposals for Research**

Congress directed that an appropriation of \$2.9 million be passed through NOAA Fisheries to the Northeast Consortium to administer “a competitive grants program, open to all Atlantic coastal states, using an independent review panel of experts and scientists in the field, to fund research on whale-friendly fishing gear and operations, surveys and studies to reduce potential conflicts between right whales and local industries, and other research including tagging, acoustic studies, habitat research and hydrodynamic modeling studies.”

The Northeast Consortium is made up of four New England academic institutions: the University of New Hampshire, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Maine. (The Northeast Consortium should not be confused with the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium, which includes the New England Aquarium, the University of Rhode Island, the Center for Coastal Studies, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and McMaster University.)

The goals of the Northeast Consortium include (1) to develop partnerships among commercial fishermen, researchers, educators and coastal managers; (2) to enable commercial fishermen and commercial fishing vessels to participate in cooperative research and development of selective gear technologies; (3) to help bring fishermen’s information, experience and expertise into the scientific framework needed for fisheries management, and (4) to equip and utilize commercial fishing vessels as research and monitoring platforms.

The Northeast Consortium is currently seeking proposals for right whale research that could have the greatest impact for reducing mortality of right whales and that will aid in the recovery of the population. Priority areas for funding include (but are not limited to) gear research and operations, disentanglement, acoustics, predictive modeling, reproduction and genetics, and remote sensing. Involvement of commercial fishermen and commercial fishing vessels in these projects is encouraged but not required. Proposals that involve industry participation should identify the fishermen and vessels by name.

The request for proposals and additional information are available from the web site: <http://www.NortheastConsortium.org>. Potential proposers are also invited to discuss their ideas with Dr. Ann Bucklin, Professor of Zoology and Director of New Hampshire Sea Grant, at 603-862-0122; [acb@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:acb@cisunix.unh.edu). The deadline for submitting proposals is April 27, 2001. The target date for the start of funded projects is June 1, 2001.

### **What Will Fall Between the Cracks?**

The environment in which right whale recovery initiatives take place has changed markedly in the last several months. NOAA Fisheries will get only \$2.1 million for right

whale work, down from \$4.1 million last year. A new player in right whale research, the Northeast Consortium, will get \$2.9 million. A new draft right whale recovery plan that shifts emphasis from the North Atlantic right whale to the North Pacific right whale is expected to be released for public review this spring. The U.S. Department of Commerce has a new Secretary, Texas oil executive Donald Evans (confirmed by the Senate on January 20), and many leadership positions having significant authority over right whale recovery decisions will be occupied by new people. Federal rulemaking has been put on hold and implementation of new rules delayed. The impact of these and other changes on the well-being of right whales cannot yet be judged. What is certain, though, is the increased probability that important right whale recovery initiatives will be forgotten, in the assumption that someone else will do it.

One example is the widespread concern about funding for right whale disentanglement work led by the Center for Coastal Studies. This is a serious problem, for there were six confirmed right whale entanglements in 1999 and another six in 2000 (preliminary figures from NOAA Fisheries). Last year, NOAA Fisheries had \$337,000 to support disentanglement work. Now, they are expecting the Northeast Consortium to pick up the tab. What happens if the Northeast Consortium doesn't provide the funds or provides less than is needed? Will NOAA Fisheries pick up the slack, and if they do, what will the agency have to cut back on or eliminate?

The Marine Mammal Commission has recommended that NOAA Fisheries initiate consultations with responsible administrators of the Northeast Consortium to develop and agree on work that should be supported by NOAA Fisheries and the Consortium. Reportedly, plans are under way to begin these consultations.

## **16 Calves So Far This Season, But One Died**

The last calving season (1999-2000) was the worst since the New England Aquarium began keeping records in 1980, with the positive sighting of only one calf. (A second possible sighting off Charleston could not be confirmed.) This season is already turning out to be one of the better ones, with sightings of 16 calves as of January 27. One of the calves was dead; it could not be recovered. The first right whale of the season was sighted off the Savannah River navigation channel on November 17, one of the earliest arrival dates on record. One cow, Moon (#1157), is now a grandmother. She has been sighted here with her sixth calf of record. One of her earlier calves, a 14-year old female (#1703), has also been seen with her first calf. Also heartening are the reports of calving by Bay of Fundy mothers (cows that are seen in the Bay of Fundy during the summer and fall). For the last several years, they had produced no calves. The calves produced during the 1998-99 and 1999-00 seasons were by mothers that spend the summer and fall in areas other than the Bay of Fundy.

Based on the recent findings of Dr. Charles "Stormy" Mayo at the Center for Coastal Studies, the speculation is that the increased number of calves this season is related to the increase in the production of copepods in Cape Cod Bay.

## Close Encounters

*Editor's note: Aerial survey teams operating off the coasts of Georgia and Florida have recently reported several close encounters between right whales and ships. Their stories are both riveting and revealing in a number of ways.*

*The first report is from the offshore aerial survey team jointly supported by the Florida Marine Research Institute (a unit of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The team consists of Laura Morse, Chris Hoefler, Peter Duley, Annie Douglas and team leader Lisa Conger. Lisa Conger tells the story a very harrowing experience during their flight on January 7<sup>th</sup>:*

As the plane flew to the offshore area after lunch, a mother and calf right whale pair was sighted. Upon taking a closer look, we recognized the pair as Mavynne (#1151) and her calf, already seen and reported by the EWS team that day. However, when we looked around, we saw a large fast moving container ship headed straight for them. The team flew by the ship to get the name and hailed it on the VHF radio. The mate responded immediately, but it quickly became obvious that the mate's first language was not English and we had a communication problem. The team observer tried to explain that the ship had two endangered whales immediately off its bow and advised the mate to alter course in either direction. As the ship was now bearing down on the pair within a mile, the situation looked grim. Momentarily, the message seemed to get through and observers in the plane could see the ship altering course to starboard. Immediately the mood in the plane changed as observers began to feel relief and even exhilaration that they had actually routed a ship around Mavynne and her calf, most likely saving their lives.

As the plane banked around in a complete circle, it's hard to describe the horror that was then felt at the sight below. Apparently, the ship's mate had decided that he'd altered the wrong way initially and was coming hard back to port. The mother and calf pair was directly in the ship's path again. The ship appeared to maintain its speed throughout the incident. With about one ship's length of distance separating the whales from the huge bulbous bow, the whales disappeared below the surface. Observers in the plane held their breath with cameras posed to document the worst. When the ship was half way over the point where mom and calf had last been seen, observers saw fluke print upwellings just outside of the ship's wake. The animals were kicking hard, subsurface, away from the ship! Whew!

One more time around and observers were able to confirm that the two had survived unscathed! They surfaced together, swimming at a rapid pace away from the ship.

This was the closest encounter I've ever witnessed (or ever hope to) between a ship and whales. It was clear that at the last minute, these whales displayed some avoidance behavior. It's impossible to say what would have happened had they been just to the starboard side of the bow or if they'd had no escape route. Clearly not all right whales demonstrate avoidance, or if they do, much of the time the last minute reaction isn't enough. Mavynne and her calf seemed to have a bit of luck on their side.

*The second report is from Chris Slay, Monica Zani and Erin LaBrecque of the Early Warning System survey flights for the New England Aquarium:*

On the afternoon of January 4, the New England Aquarium's Early Warning Survey team sighted 14-year-old female right whale #1701 – Aphrodite - just south of the Brunswick ship channel, swimming north. While photographing the whale, we noticed two car carriers in the area. One ship was outbound, clear of the channel and heading southeast. It was approximately three nautical miles away and not a threat to the whale. The inbound ship, however, was a threat. When we first noticed the inbound car carrier, it was two miles from the whale and closing. If #1701 kept swimming north, there was a very real possibility of her getting struck by the massive ship. We grabbed the VHF-radio and hailed the Brunswick harbor pilot as we watched his boat making its way to meet the car carrier. The pilot was extremely helpful and indicated that he was glad to be of service. He immediately understood the situation and called the ship. Promptly, we saw the car carrier change its course, making a 90-degree turn to the north, away from Aphrodite's position. It then slowed, stopped and held station until the pilot boat rendezvoused with the ship. At this time, the ship was only one nautical mile from #1701. We continued our survey, and approximately half an hour later we noticed the car carrier slowly easing its way into the channel with the pilot boat carefully leading the way.

With over 40 animals in the area, it's heartening to know that kingpins of the local shipping community have a genuine interest in seeing that every right whale calf makes it out of the calving ground alive.

### **SE Implementation Team asks Coast Guard To Improve Mandatory Ship Reporting System**

As reported in the last issue of *Right Whale News*, compliance with mandatory ship reporting requirements in the southeast ranged from 32% to 52% during the period between November 1999 and April 2000. Concern about these figures has led the Southeastern U. S. Implementation Team for the Recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale to recommend that the U. S. Coast Guard take several corrective measures. In a letter to Admiral James Loy, Coast Guard Commandant, Team chair Cyndi Thomas has requested the expeditious clearance of the final rule for the mandatory ship reporting system. This Final Rule is needed in order to include the requirements in the *Coast Pilot*, because the National Ocean Service cannot publish them until the rule is final. A second letter to Rear Admiral Terry Cross asked that the Coast Guard issue warning letters to

shipping companies whose ships' crews do not comply with the mandatory reporting requirements.

### **Ship Strike Workshop to Recommend Management Options**

The ship strike committee of the Northeast Implementation Team will conduct a workshop on the discussion draft of "Right Whales and Ship Management Options" April 9 – 11 in New London, Connecticut. The workshop will present a detailed regional review of what is known about the occurrence of right whales in relation to shipping and will fully explore management options. With the assistance of a facilitator, participants will be asked to develop detailed recommendations to the Northeast and Southeast implementation teams. The teams, in turn, are expected to make recommendations to NOAA Fisheries. Management options and factors to be considered in evaluating these options include (but are not limited to) information needs and gaps, legal authorities, research and development, environmental impacts and navigational safety, economic impacts and implementation costs.

The number of participants will be limited. For more information or to attend, contact ship strike committee co-chair Bruce Russell at [barussell@erols.com](mailto:barussell@erols.com)

### **Lobster Trap and Gillnet Rules Delayed**

On December 21, 2000, NOAA Fisheries published new rules in the *Federal Register*, amending the 1999 Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. Lobster trap and gillnet fishermen were given thirty days to bring their gear into compliance with the new rules. At the request of fishermen and Senator Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), NOAA Fisheries has delayed the implementation of the new fishing gear regulations until February 21.

It is not yet known whether the Bush Administration's hold on the implementation of new regulations will further delay these rules. For additional information, consult NOAA Fisheries' take reduction plan web site: [www.nero.nmfs.gov/whaletrp/](http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/whaletrp/) or contact Doug Beach at NMFS/Northeast Region, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; 978-281-2298.

### **EPA Proposes Right Whale Critical Habitat as Special Ocean Sites**

On January 19, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed that right whale critical habitats off Massachusetts, Georgia and Florida, and three other offshore areas in Oregon, Texas and California with outstanding environmental value be designated as Special Ocean Sites. If designated, new and expanded ocean development would have to meet new protective standards under the Clean Water Act of 1972. These activities include oil and gas exploration, mineral mining and fish farming in federal

waters beyond the three-mile limit. Permits for new discharges and significant expansions of existing discharges in Federal waters would be prohibited.

Additional information on the proposal is available on EPA's Office of Water web site: <http://www.epa.gov/ow>. Click on "what's new." Also contact Robin Woods at EPA: 202-564-7841.

## **Expect Draft U.S. Recovery Plan This Spring**

The "pre-release draft" of the "Updated Recovery Plan for the North Atlantic Right Whale, *Eubalaena glacialis*, and the North Pacific Right Whale, *Eubalaena japonica*" that was circulated informally to interested parties last fall has been revised and is presently going through clearance at NOAA Fisheries. A "public review draft" will be published this spring and its availability announced in the *Federal Register*. This will be followed by either a 60 or 90 day public comment period. The agency faces a Congressionally-mandated July 31 deadline for completion of the final plan. For further information on the availability of the plan, contact Dr. Greg Silber at 301-713-2322, ext. 152 or e-mail: [greg.silber@noaa.gov](mailto:greg.silber@noaa.gov).

The Northeast Implementation Team plans to review and comment on the revised draft. Under the leadership of team members Joe Pelczarski and Sal Testaverde, the team has prepared a useful analysis of the plan's elements, agency task assignments, implementation team tasks, data collection tasks, on-going and proposed new tasks and a breakdown of action tasks (63 in the pre-release draft), study tasks (27), assessment tasks (13) and monitoring tasks (6). Their materials also identify task partners and potential additional partners. For further information, contact Dr. Sal Testaverde at: [Salvatore.Testaverde@noaa.gov](mailto:Salvatore.Testaverde@noaa.gov)

## **Useful Web Sites**

The call for useful web sites in the last issue of *Right Whale News* resulted in a number of submittals. The editor has added a few of his own, along with brief explanations for each. This list is by no means complete. Recommendations for additional listings would be welcome.

### **Government agencies**

[www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov) The National Marine Fisheries Service, the lead federal agency in right whale recovery, has changed its name to NOAA Fisheries. They also have a **new** web site.

[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/prot\\_res.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/prot_res.html) The **new** web site of NOAA Fisheries' Office of Protected Resources. It includes information on programs and policies that protect and conserve marine mammals and other species.

<http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/whaletrp> NOAA Fisheries' site for the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan; it also includes general information on right whales.

<http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dmfrtwhl.htm> The Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries site includes annual reports on Cape Cod Bay.

[www.facsfacjax.navy.mil](http://www.facsfacjax.navy.mil) The U.S. Navy's "Whale Fusion Center" web site includes information on right whale sightings in the southeastern U. S.

[http://www.whalenet.net/whalenet-stuff/reportsRw\\_NE/](http://www.whalenet.net/whalenet-stuff/reportsRw_NE/) This site carries the sighting advisory system postings.

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/protres/PR2/Conservation and Recovery Program/msr/msrhome](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/protres/PR2/Conservation%20and%20Recovery%20Program/msr/msrhome)  
NOAA Fisheries' mandatory ship reporting system page.

[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans web site includes information on right whales and the Canadian right whale recovery plan.

### **Conservation organizations**

[www.savetherightwhale.com](http://www.savetherightwhale.com) The Canadian Whale Institute site includes information on the *Eubalaena* award competition, which encourages the search for new solutions to prevent entanglements of right whales in fishing gear.

[www.GEPInstitute.com](http://www.GEPInstitute.com) The Georgia Environmental Policy Institute web site includes current issues of *Right Whale News* and links to archived issues.

[www.RightWhales.org](http://www.RightWhales.org) The International Fund for Animal Welfare's right whale site.

### **Research**

[www.coastalstudies.org](http://www.coastalstudies.org) The Center for Coastal Studies web site includes information on disentanglements.

<http://www.NortheastConsortium.org> The Northeast Consortium's web site includes requests for proposals for right whale research. See article on page 2.

[www.whalecenter.org](http://www.whalecenter.org) The Whale Center of New England's new web site. See article on page 9.

<http://www.sfcelticmusic.com/js/RTWHALES/nprightw.htm>. This site summarizes much of the current knowledge about the North Pacific right whale, *Eubalaena japonica*.



## Education

[http://whale.wheelock.edu/right whale/](http://whale.wheelock.edu/right%20whale/) Wheelock College's interactive educational site on whales including the right whale.

[www.learner.org/jnorth](http://www.learner.org/jnorth) Journey North is an online education project that immerses more than 250,000 North American students in a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change. Among the species studied is the North Atlantic right whale. Using the Internet, students can learn about right whale migration and issues surrounding its endangered status.

<http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov/rightwhalenews.html> The Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary maintains an archive of back issues of *Right Whale News* at this site. An index for the first five years (1994 – 1998) is also included.

## Whale Center of New England Studies Right Whales

The Cetacean Research Unit, which has been conducting baleen whale research in New England since the late 1970's, has changed its name to the Whale Center of New England as of May 2000. Its website has also been changed to [www.whalecenter.org](http://www.whalecenter.org). The name change reflects the growing concerns of the organization, and reflects the fact they have been independent of other bodies since the mid-1980's. (They were originally formed as a unit of the now-defunct Gloucester Fishermen's Museum.) The Whale Center of New England continues to be involved in right whale research on Jeffrey's Ledge and in Massachusetts Bay. Their director, Mason Weinrich, is a member of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team and serves as a technical advisor to the Northeast Implementation Team.

## People

The Northeast Implementation Team has unanimously re-elected its officers for the next three years. **Tom French** of the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife continues as chair. **Tom Featherston** of the U.S. Navy serves as vice chair, and **Joe Pelczarski** of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management office serves as secretary...**Dr. Andy Rosenberg**, Deputy Assistant Administrator at NOAA Fisheries, has left the agency to become Dean of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire. UNH is one of the four academic institutions participating in the Northeast Consortium (see article on page 2). Dr. Rosenberg will be replaced by **Dr. William Hogarth**, formerly the Regional Administrator for the Southeast Region of NOAA Fisheries...**Chris Mantzaris**, formerly the Division Chief of the Office of Protected Resources in NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Regional Office, has been promoted to be Deputy Regional Administrator. **Mary A. Colligan** is the Acting Regional Administrator. Chris' previous position as Division Chief is now vacant. The vacancy announcement can

be viewed at <http://www.jobs.doc.gov> Chris' counterpart in the Southeastern Regional Office, **Chuck Oravetz**, has retired after 33.75 years of exemplary government service...**Eric Hammerling**, Director of the Northeast Region for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is looking for a program manager for the National Whale Conservation Fund that was established by Congress in 1998 (P.L. 105-277). The position is expected to be filled in February...**John Twiss** has retired as Executive Director of the Marine Mammal Commission. His replacement is **Dr. Robert H. Mattlin**.

The right whale community was saddened by the news that **Jerry Conway's** daughter died in her sleep on December 22.

### Scientific Literature and Reports

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Schell, D. M., V. J. Rowntree and C. J. Pfeiffer. 2000. Stable-isotope and electron-microscopic evidence that cyamids (Crustacea: Amphipoda) feed on whale skin. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 78 (5): 721 – 727.

## Calendar of Events

February 15: The Canadian right whale recovery team's ship strike committee will meet in St. John, New Brunswick. For further information, contact Jerry Conway at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans: tel. 902-426-6947 or e-mail: [ConwayJ@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:ConwayJ@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

February 28: The Canadian right whale recovery team's fishing gear committee will meet in St. John, New Brunswick. For further information, contact Jerry Conway at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans: 902-426-6947 or [ConwayJ@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:ConwayJ@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

March 22-23: Right whale research coordination meeting. St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada. Scientists seeking permits to conduct research in Canadian waters, including the Bay of Fundy, are encouraged to attend. For further information, contact Jerry Conway at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans: 902-426-6947 or [ConwayJ@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:ConwayJ@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

March 30 – April 1: Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, NC. For further information, visit the conference website: <http://kogia.ml.duke.edu/>.

April 9 – 11: Ship strike workshop. U. S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut. For additional information, see article on page 6 or contact Bruce Russell at [barussell@erols.com](mailto:barussell@erols.com)

April 27: Deadline for submission of full proposals for right whale research and cooperative research to the Northeast Consortium. See article on page 2 for details.

May 1: Northeast Implementation Team meeting. Black Falcon Terminal, Massport, Boston. Starting at 10:00 AM. For further information, contact Dr. Sal Testaverde at: [Salvatore.Testaverde@noaa.gov](mailto:Salvatore.Testaverde@noaa.gov)

May 3-4: Southeastern U.S. Implementation Team for the Recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale meeting. Location to be determined. For further information, contact team chair Cyndi Thomas at 904-448-4300, ext. 229; e-mail: [Cyndi.T.Thomas@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Cyndi.T.Thomas@dep.state.fl.us)

June 15: Deadline for submitting abstracts for the Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals (see last calendar item).

October 24: Northeast Implementation Team meeting. Location to be determined. For further information, contact Dr. Sal Testaverde at: [Salvatore.Testaverde@noaa.gov](mailto:Salvatore.Testaverde@noaa.gov)

October 25-26: North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium annual meeting. Pre-registration required. For further information, contact Marilyn Marx at [mmarx@neaq.org](mailto:mmarx@neaq.org)

November 1-2: Southeastern U.S. Implementation Team for the Recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale meeting. Location to be determined. For further information, contact team chair Cyndi Thomas at 904-448-4300, ext. 229; e-mail: [Cyndi.T.Thomas@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Cyndi.T.Thomas@dep.state.fl.us)

November 29-December 3: 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. For further information and to submit abstracts, go to [www.vanaqua.org/mmconf2001](http://www.vanaqua.org/mmconf2001).

### ***Right Whale News***

*Right Whale News* is the newsletter of the Southeastern U.S. Implementation Team for the Recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale and the Northeast Whale Implementation Team. The editor is Hans Neuhauser. The editorial board consists of Bill Brooks, Moe Brown, Jim Hain, Scott Kraus, Mike Payne, Sigrid Sanders and Jerry Wallmeyer.

The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, the Southeast Regional Office of NOAA Fisheries (formerly the National Marine Fisheries Service), the Northeast Whale Implementation Team and the Savannah Presbytery M. K. Pentecost Ecology Trust Fund have underwritten the costs of *Right Whale News*. Thanks to their support, *Right Whale News* is published quarterly and is distributed free of charge.

The **current issue** of *Right Whale News* is now available on line at a web site maintained by the Georgia Environmental Policy Institute: [www.GEPInstitute.com](http://www.GEPInstitute.com)

An **index** of the first five years of *Right Whale News* (1994-1998) is available along with current and **back issues** on the Internet, thanks to Alex Score and the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. The web site address is: <http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov/rightwhalenews.html>

**To subscribe** to *Right Whale News* or to submit news or articles for publication, contact the editor, Hans Neuhauser, at the Georgia Environmental Policy Institute, 380 Meigs Street, Athens, GA 30601, USA. Telephone 706-546-7507. Fax 706-613-7775. E-mail [gepi@ix.netcom.com](mailto:gepi@ix.netcom.com)

